

Information Governance

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9 November 2017
Reference no. 17180235

Dear

Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your email of 19 October, making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information and the Trust is able to provide the information below in response:

Request:

- The number of A&E attendances linked to Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), formerly known as 'legal highs', since January 2012. Please provide figures broken down by month.
- The number of A&E attendances linked to synthetic cannabinoids, also referred to as Spice or Black Mamba, since January 2012. Please provide figures broken down by month.
- The number of emergency admissions linked to Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), formerly known as 'legal highs', since January 2012. Please provide figures broken down by month.
- The number of emergency admissions linked to synthetic cannabinoids, also referred to as Spice or Black Mamba, since January 2012. Please provide figures broken down by month.

Response:

1. The Trust does not provide A&E services, which are provided in Oxfordshire by Oxford University Hospitals NHS FT.
2. The Trust does not provide A&E services, which are provided in Oxfordshire by Oxford University Hospitals NHS FT.

3 and 4: The Trust is unable to comply with this area of your request as to do so would require the Trust to exceed the appropriate limit. The information is not coded as a

diagnosis or part of a diagnosis or reason for admission and hence is not held in a structured or reportable form. The Trust would have to manually review thousands (a minimum of 12000) of electronic and paper based health records to access, identify, extract and collate the information you require. To provide the information requested even if it only took 1 minute per record, would involve a minimum of 200 hours work. The appropriate limit set in regulation by section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act is 18 hours.

It is difficult to advise if reducing the scope of the request even to as little as 1 year would bring it within the appropriate limit, since the information is unstructured and requires manual review. The 1-minute estimate is illustrative, and likely to be an underestimate. 33 hours would still be required at a minimum.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will ensure the decision is reviewed. The Trust will consider undertaking a review if requested to do so within 40 working days of the date the response is received by the applicant, and will apply discretion if a longer period of time has passed.

Should you wish to make a complaint as a result of the outcome of such a review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust for FoI Act matters.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Underwood

Head of Information Governance